

HOUSE BILL 174

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2003 Regular Session  
3r1284  
CF 3r1717

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By: **Delegates Morhaim and Kach**  
Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2003  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 19, 2003

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of the Environment - Noise Control and Pollution**

3 FOR the purpose of encouraging a political subdivision to consider compliance with  
4 certain standards before acting on a proposed variance request or change in  
5 zoning classification; encouraging a political subdivision to consider compliance  
6 with certain standards before acting on a proposed variance request or change to  
7 consider if the permit or activity will be in compliance with certain standards;  
8 altering the membership of the Environmental Noise Advisory Council;  
9 repealing an obsolete provision; requiring the Department of the Environment  
10 to conduct certain hearings and prepare or solicit certain input before proposing  
11 any changes in a certain statute or regulation; authorizing the Council to  
12 provide certain advice to the Department; altering the membership of the  
13 Interagency Noise Control Committee; ~~repealing certain sound level limits and~~  
14 ~~noise control requirements~~; specifying the terms of the initial members of the  
15 Council; and generally relating to noise control and pollution.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article - Environment  
18 Section 3-105, 3-202, 3-205, ~~3-302~~, and ~~3-401(e)~~ and 3-302  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
22 Article - Environment  
23 Section 3-201 and 3-301  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article - Environment**

4 3-105.

5 (a) (1) Except as provided in this section, this title does not limit the power  
6 of a political subdivision to adopt noise control ordinances, rules, or regulations.

7 (2) A political subdivision may not adopt any noise control ordinance,  
8 rule, or regulation that is less stringent than the environmental noise standards,  
9 sound level limits, and noise control rules and regulations adopted under this title.

10 (3) (i) A political subdivision may not adopt any noise control  
11 ordinance, rule, or regulation, including the environmental noise standards, sound  
12 level limits, and noise control rules and regulations adopted under this title, that  
13 prohibits trapshooting, skeetshooting, or other target shooting between the hours of 9  
14 a.m. and 10 p.m. by a shooting sports club that is chartered and in operation as of  
15 January 1, 2001.

16 (ii) This paragraph does not apply in Allegany, Baltimore City,  
17 Calvert, Charles, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, St. Mary's, and Washington  
18 counties.

19 (b) Each political subdivision [shall]:

20 (1) [Send] SHALL SEND to the Department a copy of each noise control  
21 ordinance, rule, or regulation that it adopts; [and]

22 (2) [Identify] SHALL IDENTIFY on each zoning map, comprehensive  
23 plan, or other appropriate document the sound level limits that are adopted under  
24 Subtitle 4 of this title; AND

25 (3) IS ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER:

26 (I) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE OR LOCAL NOISE STANDARDS  
27 BEFORE ACTING ON ANY PROPOSED VARIANCE REQUESTS OR CHANGES IN ZONING  
28 CLASSIFICATIONS; AND

29 (II) WHETHER THE PERMIT OR ACTIVITY WILL BE IN COMPLIANCE  
30 WITH LOCAL AND STATE NOISE CONTROL STANDARDS, PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A  
31 BUILDING, ACTIVITY PERMIT, OR SIMILAR AUTHORIZING DOCUMENT.

32 3-201.

33 There is an Environmental Noise Advisory Council in the Department.

1 3-202.

2 (a) (1) The Council consists of [5 ] 11 members:

3 (I) 9 VOTING MEMBERS appointed by the Secretary; AND

4 (II) 2 EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.

5 (2) Of the [5] 11 Council members:

6 (i) 1 shall be appointed from a list of at least 3 qualified  
7 individuals submitted to the Secretary by the Acoustical Society of America AND THE  
8 INSTITUTE OF NOISE CONTROL ENGINEERING;

9 (ii) 1 shall be a physician who specializes in hearing, appointed  
10 from a list of at least 3 qualified individuals submitted to the Secretary by the  
11 Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland;

12 (iii) 1 shall be appointed from a list of at least 3 qualified  
13 individuals submitted to the Secretary by the Chancellor of the University System of  
14 Maryland; [and]

15 (iv) 2 shall be appointed from the [general] public AT LARGE;

16 (V) 1 SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM A LIST OF AT LEAST 3  
17 INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY BY THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL  
18 LEAGUE;

19 (VI) 1 SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM A LIST OF AT LEAST 3  
20 INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF  
21 COUNTIES;

22 (VII) 2 SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM A LIST OF AT LEAST 3  
23 INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY BY THE MARYLAND CHAMBER OF  
24 COMMERCE;

25 (IX) 1 EX OFFICIO MEMBER SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE SENATE  
26 OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND

27 (X) 1 EX OFFICIO MEMBER SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF  
28 DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

29 (3) [Before appointing the members from among the general public, the  
30 Secretary shall request and consider suggestions for nominees from:

31 (i) The Maryland State Chamber of Commerce;

32 (ii) The Maryland Transportation Federation;

33 (iii) The Maryland Environmental Trust; and

1 (iv) Any other environmental groups that the Secretary selects.

2 (4)] In making any appointment to the Council, the Secretary shall  
3 consider giving appropriate representation to the various geographical areas of this  
4 State.

5 (b) Each member of the Council shall be a resident of this State.

6 (c) (1) The term of a member is 5 years.

7 [(2) The terms of members are staggered as required by the terms  
8 provided for members of the Council on July 1, 1982. The terms of those members end  
9 as follows:

10 (i) 1 in 1983;

11 (ii) 1 in 1984;

12 (iii) 1 in 1985;

13 (iv) 1 in 1986; and

14 (v) 1 in 1987.]

15 [(3)] (2) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a  
16 successor is appointed and qualifies.

17 [(4)] (3) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only  
18 for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

19 3-205.

20 (a) Before the Department [adopts] PROPOSES any CHANGES IN THE  
21 PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE OR REVISIONS TO THE environmental noise [standard or  
22 sound level limit,] REGULATIONS, the Department shall:

23 (1) [submit] SUBMIT the proposed [environmental noise standard or  
24 sound level limit] REVISIONS to the Council for advice;

25 (2) CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS; AND

26 (3) PREPARE OR SOLICIT TECHNICAL INPUT ON ISSUES RELATED TO  
27 THE REVISIONS.

28 (b) Within 60 days after receiving a proposed [environmental noise standard  
29 or sound level limit] REVISION from the Department, the Council shall give the  
30 Department its advice on the proposal by recommending:

31 (1) Adoption;

32 (2) Rejection; or

1 (3) Modification.

2 (C) THE COUNCIL MAY PROVIDE ADVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT ON ANY  
3 MATTER RELATING TO NOISE POLLUTION.

4 3-301.

5 There is an Interagency Noise Control Committee.

6 3-302.

7 (a) The Committee consists of:

8 (1) 1 member of the Governor's executive staff, appointed by the  
9 Governor; and

10 (2) 1 representative of each of the following departments, appointed by  
11 the Secretary of that department:

12 (i) The Department of the Environment;

13 (ii) The State Department of Transportation;

14 (iii) The Department of Natural Resources;

15 (iv) The Department of Planning; [and]

16 (V) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;

17 (VI) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC  
18 DEVELOPMENT;

19 (VII) THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION;  
20 AND

21 [(v)] (VIII) Any other principal department that develops, adopts,  
22 or enforces any noise control rule or regulation.

23 (b) The member who is appointed by the Secretary of the Environment is  
24 chairman of the Committee.

25 ~~3-401.~~

26 ~~(c) (1) In adopting sound level limits and noise control rules and  
27 regulations, the Department shall consider, among other things:~~

28 ~~(i) The residential, commercial, or industrial nature of the area  
29 affected;~~

30 ~~(ii) Zoning;~~

- 1 (iii) The nature and source of various kinds of noise;
- 2 (iv) The degree of noise reduction that may be attained and  
3 maintained using the best available technology;
- 4 (v) Accepted scientific and professional methods for measurement  
5 of sound levels; and
- 6 (vi) The cost of compliance with the sound level limits.

7 (2) The sound level limits adopted under this subsection shall be  
8 consistent with the environmental noise standards adopted by the Department.

9 (3) The sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations  
10 adopted under this subsection may not prohibit trapshooting or other target shooting  
11 on any range or other property in Frederick County that the Frederick County  
12 Department of Planning and Zoning has approved as a place for those sporting  
13 events.

14 (4) ~~The sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations~~  
15 ~~adopted under this subsection shall be as follows for residential heat pumps and air~~  
16 ~~conditioning units:~~

17 (i) Residential heat pumps \_\_\_\_\_ 75dba.

18 (ii) Residential air conditioning units \_\_\_\_\_ 70dba.

19 (5) (i) ~~The sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations~~  
20 ~~adopted under this subsection may not prohibit trapshooting, skeet shooting, or other~~  
21 ~~target shooting between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. on any range or other~~  
22 ~~property of a shooting sports club that is chartered and in operation as of January 1,~~  
23 ~~2001.~~

24 (ii) ~~This paragraph does not apply in Allegany, Anne Arundel,~~  
25 ~~Baltimore City, Calvert, Charles, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, St. Mary's, and~~  
26 ~~Washington counties.~~

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the voting  
28 members of the Environmental Noise Advisory Council shall expire as follows:

29 (1) 2 members in 2004;

30 (2) 2 members in 2005;

31 (3) 2 members in 2006; and

32 (4) 3 members in 2007.

33 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
34 effect July 1, 2003.

